

Federal Communications Commission  
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Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Commissioner Kathleen Q.

Commissioner Michael J.

Commissioner Kevin J.

Reference: FCC Docket Nos 96-45, 98-171, 90-571, 92-237, 99-200, 95-116, 98-170  
and NSD File No. L-00-72.

Dear FCC:

I am writing to complain about the proposed changes to the Universal Service Fund and requesting that the FCC investigate this matter further before changing the current policy. Your proposed \$1.00 per month charge for all wireless phones will directly impact my ability to retain my wireless service.

I do not think it is fair to charge EVERYBODY \$1.00 dollar regardless of how they use their wireless phone, especially for a low-volume user that relies on wireless service for safety and security, not interstate calls. The current policy is fair, based on interstate usage, and should be left alone. Please do not penalize us. Keep this fair.

There is no question that there must be some exceptions made in the proposed increase in the Universal Service Fund's charge for wireless service. Consider my wife and mine's situation. We are both living off of Social security, a fixed income, and can not keep on having added expenses reducing our disposable retirement income. I am gradually approaching a crisis as my necessary expenses increase. As an example: my drug prescription expense at present amounts to 25% of my net social security income. This expense has increased by 20% in the past year.

I cannot afford a regular cell phone, nor do I need one. The TracFone I use is strictly for emergency. When traveling together, and when my wife travels alone, it gives us a means of calling for help in case of a car breakdown or a medical emergency. I have a heart condition that one never knows when something might go wrong. This type of usage is probably common to most users of TacFone service. Let the people who use regular cell phones, most of the time unnecessarily, bare the cost of a necessary increase FFC needs. In other words, let the people who use it pay for it, especially those that drive on the streets and highways with one hand on the cellphone and the other hand on the steering wheel, plus their attention to driving being distracted.

I hope that I never have to use my limited use phone service but if an emergency occurs I have the ease of mine, knowing that I have a means of contacting someone for help.

Please do not include limited use type phone service to your increase. I am 70 years old and my wife is 66 and my TracFone is not a toy, nor a status symbol, it is a necessity.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please provide a written response indicating the status/resolution of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Billy and Delores McElhaney  
719 Wood Duck Drive

CC: FCC Subcommittee Members